CHINA'S DRAMATIC STORY.

LIGHT SHED ON RECENT EVENTS BY THE ENGLISH BLUE BOOK.

Plot to Take the Emperor's Life Probably Checked by 5tr Claude MacDonald's Warning-Kang Yu-wei's Escape-The Empress Downger's Assumption of Authority-House of Lords Decision on Gambling Revelations of the Famine in Rus sia and the Causes-New Plays on the English Stage-" A Diary of St. Helena."

Loxnon, March 18 -It is not often that the stories of strong dramatic interest-tales of plotting and adventure and hairbreadth escape. The China blue book issued by the British Foreign Office this week supplies material enough for a Dumas to construct an Oriental "Three Musketeers," or it would en-able Mr. Stanley Weyman to write "A Gentleman of China," which no one would accept as a historical novel without the official does

The world knows in a general way that it September last the Emperor of China was in some mysterious way deposed by the Empress Dowager, who after first protending that the young ruler was grievously ill, assumed the reigns of government and completely reversed the prevailing policy of the empire. The usual violent personal measures which accompany an Oriental coup d'état were adopted to the Empress and her advisors, but the Christian world learned of them at the time only in fragmentary fashion. Now we have the story told connectedly and clearly by Sir Change Mac-Donald, British Minister at Pekin, in his coports to his Government. Not only is it a mar-rative of strong intrinsor interest, but it contains information which tends to clear up the mystery of recent events in the Far East.

After felegraphing to Lord Salisbury the fact that the Emperor had been deposed, the Britfah Minister, on Sept. 28 fast, wrote to the Foreign Office the following particulars:

"I now forward a translation of the imperial edict issued on the 21st inst., in which the Emperor details his reasons for inviting the Empress Dowager to advise him in the government of the nation. The decree naturally created much excitement in Pokin, and rumors of impending disaster to the most prominent of the advocates of reform were prevalent.

Subsequent proceedings justified the alarm and assumed the character of a coup d'état, The same day the house of Chang Yin-huan was surrounded by the police in search of one Kang Yu-wei. This Kang Yu-wei is a Chinese scholar of high repute who was, until lately editor of a Chinese newspaper in Shanghai known as Progress. He was a strong advocate of reform, and was this year recommended to the Emperor, and on his arrival in Pekin was given a position of Secretary in the Board of Works. He is said to have acquired great influence over the Emperor, and to have been his adviser in his recent reform measures

Kang Yu-wei could not be found, and it has subsequently transpired that he has escaped and left Shanghai on the 27th in the English mail for Hong Kong. So keen was the hunt for him that on the 22d all traffic was stopped on the Tien-tsin Railway line to prevent his

"On the 24th inst. orders were issued for the arrest of several officials who had been in relation with him, including Chang Yin-huar and Hsü Chih-ching. The latter had recommended Kang to the throne, and had been recently appointed President of the Board of Rites. Chang Yin-huan went to the Board of Punishments and has remained a prisoner

The precise charge against Kang and his friends has not transpired, but it is supposed to be one of conspiracy against the liberty and even the life of the Empress Downger

It was reported on the 25th that Chang was to be executed the same evening or early next morning, and I thought it advisable to make an appeal on his behalf for at least due consideration of any charge brought against him. The report reached me late in the afternoon, and it was therefore necessary to take prompt measures. It was supposed that Li Hung Chang had been consulted by the Empress Dowager in the matter. I accordingly addressed a letter to his Excellency pointing out the horror with which such sudden executions were regarded by all Western nations and the bad effect the secret and hasty condempation of an official of Chang's rank, who was so well known in Europe, would produce. and begged his Excellency to use what influence he cossessed to prevent such hurried ac-tion. I concluded my letter by saying that I appealed to him, Li, because he was the only statesman now in Pekin who was conversant with European methods, and would therefore thoroughly realize the disastrous impression which such a summary execution would produce throughout the Western world.

"It is well known that Li Hung Chaug and Chan Yin-huan are deadly enemies, and it was generally reported that Chang's imprisonment The Grand Secretary replied saying that he highly respected my generous and humans motives, and he assured me that no summary action would be taken. That such summary action was seriously contem-plated by the anti-reform party is undoubted.

'On the 26th inst. a decree appeared, of which I inclose a translation, ordering the reformers to be brought to a rigorous trial, exonerating Chang from collusion with Kang Yu-wel, but denouncing him as of very bad

It was directed that he bekept under supervision by the Board of Punishments, awaiting a further decree. The decree concludes by intimating that no further inquiries will be made as to Kang's associates. This was to doubt added to aliay the anxieties of many officials who had had relations with Kang. In particular there was a society in Pekin, lately established by him, eniled the Protectors of the Nation, which is said to have had over 1000 members. Another deeree was issued on the 'ant Inst., of which I inclose translation, reversing many of the reform measures of the past few

The whole character of the proceedings above described gives strong ground for suspicion that the movement is directed against the reform party of China, and that a rumored conspiracy is the pretext for putting a stop to the aweeping changes decreed or contemplated by the Emperor.

'A significant decree appeared on the 25th inst., of which I include translation, stating that the Emperor's health had been queatly factory for the past four months, and commanding the attendance of skilful physicians. The story of Kang's escape from the heads man is told in a report from Consul Brennan of Shanghai. He writes:

I have the honor to report that Kang Yuwei, for whose arrest and decapitation an edic was issued on the 23d inst. has succeeded in eluding the Chinese officials at Shanghai and getting on board a steamer bound for Hong

Kong. 'On the morning of the 25d I received a letter from the Taotai informing me that he had received secret instructions to arrest the eashiered Under Secretary, Kang Autwei, on The Taotai at the same time sent his secretary to inform me that | China. the Emperor was abact, and that kang was accused of having given his Mujesty certain

The Taotai requested that I should have all British shops arriving from Tientsia searched, and that I should instruct the municipal police to watch the different whorves as the steamers arrived. To facilitate identification, he sent a photograph of Kang Yu-wel, and he added that a reward of \$2.500 would be paid for his

In the course of the morning the British steamship II. Dorado arrived, and as she was entering the anchorage she was stopped by an official Chinese launch, and an inspector of the Chinese river police, in uniform a British subject), boarded her and searched the vessel for

in any way obtained, I complained to the Taotal of this act of illegality in a letter, of which inclose a copy.

In the course of the day (Sept. 23) I reseived numerous messages from the Taota nd other officials to the effect that Kang Yo vei was known to be coming by the steamship Chungking, due on the 24th. The Chinese de ectives and policemen were in a high state of xeitement at the prospect of gaining the \$2,000, and I feared that on her privat the essel would be rushed by a crowd of Yamen

The fact that the Chungking's wharf is or he French settlement made it difficult for me take measures for the steamer's protection free the previous day's experience in the case f the El Dorado I also had misgivings as to the action the Chinese authorities might take before the vessel entered the harbor limits, s-I decided that the best course was to intercep the steamer outside Woosung. I did not wish any officer of this consulate to be openly connected with the transference of Kang Yu-wei from one steamer to another, so I accepted the offer of Mr. J. O. P. Bland's services. As he speaks Chinese well, he was a very suitable person to employ for the purpose.
"Early on the morning on the 24th Mr

Bland went out in a launch some miles outside Woosung and intercepted the Chungking With the aid of the photograph which the Taotai had given me there was no difficulty in finding the man. He was absolutely uncor scious of any impending danger, and it was not until he was shown the Taotai's application for his arrest that he realized his perilous cosition. In a few minutes he removed himself to the launch, and he was then conveyed to the Peninsula and Oriental steamer Ballanrat, then lying outside Woosung. Her Majesty's ship lisk, as a measure of precaution, had been sent down to Woosung, and three on the Chungking jumped to the conclusion that Kang Yn-wei was taking refuge on the English gunboat, so that when the Chungking arrived at Shanghai the detectives and officials on the look out for Kang Yu-we were informed that he was on board the Esk. That evening and all next day I received many inquiries from the officials as to the man's whereabouts, but after a time they seemed to perceive that the refugee had found a safe

"The Ballaarat was remaining at Woosnug for wo days more, so Mr. Bourne seized the opportunity of visiting Kang Yu-wei and eliciting some valuable information from him. This will be found embodied in the memorandum which I inclose. During the Ballaarat's stay at Woosung I was somewhat auxious lest some Chinese hireling, stimulated by an offer of a large reward, should make an attempt on Kang Yu-wei's life, but the precautions taken by Capt. Field of the Ballagrat were complete. and an armed sentry stood outside his cabin door night and day. The Ballaarat sails at 1 'clock to-morrow morning."

In a subsequent letter Sir Claude MacDonald holds the reformer Kang largely responsible, by reason of his injudicious conduct, for pre-cipitating the coup d'état and thus damaging the cause of true reform in China. This is the British Minister's language on the subject, written in October last:

Kong represents the movement against re form to be the outcome of the struggle for power between the Emperor and Empress Dowager, and that the latter took advantage of the discontent among the higher and older officials caused by the recent sweeping reform edicts of the Emperor to east his Majesty once more into the background. Mr. Cockburn suggests that another cause for the reactionary policy of the Empress Dowager might be found in a genuine fear on her part that the Emperor was rushing headlong into rash experiments in the way of reform.

Recent events tend rather to show that the Empress Dowager and the Manchu party were seriously alarmed for their own safety, and looked upon the reform movement as inimical to Manchu rule. The leaders of reform were Chinese, and in denouncing the society formed by Kang Yu-wei, and styled 'Protectors of the Nation,' the imperial decree significantly re marked that the society proposed to protect the nation but not the dynasty. The Manchu party, in crushing the reformers, could count upon the sympathy, or at least the indifference, of the great mass of Chinese officials, whose privileges, and even positions, were peoparded by the changes recommended by the ardent band of young men whose advice the Emperor was evidently taking.

'I consider the cause of true reform in China has been much injured by the injudicious con-

duct of Kang Yu-wei and his friends. "On the 11th inst. I sent your lordship a telegram stating that most of the important eform edicts had been rescinded. Nearly ever day imperial decrees, some in the name of the Empress Dowager alone, are issued, caucelling recent edicts of the Emperor. On Sept. 29 the Imperial visit to Tien-tsiu, projected for the end of October, was declared abandoned, on the ground that the colder climate of Tien-tsin at that time of the year would be injurious to the Empress Dowager's health. The same deeree bestowed liberal presents of money among the various foreign-drilled troops in this prov

"The various Yamens in Pekin and some of those in the provinces, lately abolished by the Emperor, have been reinstated. The duty of taking measures to make the nation more powerful is thrown once more on provincial and local authorities instead of on special boards in Pekin. The grain tribute is to be resumed, with all its wasteful expenditure. The right of memorializing the throne is again limited to high officials. The examinations are placed upon their old footing, that is, are based entirely upon the Chinese classics. All Chinese newspapers are ordered to be suppressed and their writers punished. The recently established Board of Trade, Manufac tures and Agriculture is abolished.

"On the 8th inst. an imperial decree ap peared with the avowed purpose of putting ; stop to prevalent ideas that the Governmen was showing a strong bias toward Manchus, and that all the recent penalties in repression of the reform movement had been inflicted upon Chinese. In the usual lofty style of such corees, it was proclaimed that the Govern nent treated all with strict impartiality, and would punish all the guilty, whether Manchus or Chinese. Other edicts are being issued stating that necessary and beneficial reforms carried out as previously planned. These edicts are couched in vague and grandil quent language, and are considered to be empty words.

Despite the promise of elemency mentioned n my desnatch above quoted, the more proment associates of Kang Ya-wei are gradually seing dealt with and treated with great severity. The tendency shown by the Government is to look with suspicton upon all officials who have had dealings with foreigners, and these officials are quaking in their shoes. The Manchu party evidently considers foreigners are responsible for Kang Yu-wel's views, and consequently distrusts all those who have associated in any way with foreigners.

There have been persistent rumors of the Empress Downger proceeding to extreme steps with regard to the Emperor. I have conveyed semi-officially to the Vamen my firm conviction that should the Emperor dig at this june ture of affairs the effect produced among Western nations would be most disastrous to

There is little doubt that the message referred to in the concluding highly significant sentence of the Minister's letter had the effecof saving the life of the deposed young Em-

It took six printest columns of subtle legal fictions for the judicial members of the House of Lords this week to balk the National Anti-Cambling League of its over. Surely the strength of the sporting instinct in Englishen was never more respectfully recognized? tigh places. The league is composed of strenyous and sorrowful persons who are sure that gambling is the curse of the country, and they mean to make everybody good. It succeeded in having the chief bookmaker in England Eang Yu-wei. As this was done without a fined two years ago for a breach of the Betting

conviction in a criminal court and there is no ourt of criminal appeal, the legality of this ecision could not be taken up to the Supreme Court, i.e., the House of Lords, which delegates its judicial powers to a small group of its legal iem bers

The Betting act of 1853 made it illegal for any "house, office, room or other 'place' to be opened, kept or used for the purpose of the owner or occupier or any person using the same betting with persons resorting there Accordingly a friendly action was started to settle the anti-gamblers' contention that the reserved inclosure at racecourses, otherwise Tattersalls' ring, was a "place" within the meaning of the act. A Mr. Powell took one hare in the Kempton Park Bacccours Company, and the next day started an action against the company for a breach of the law. Both parties agreed on tatement of the facts, which was to the effect that the ring was used habitually by book makers in plying their trade, and that fre queuters of racceourses wishing to bet knew notoriously that bookmakers were to be found there. The only question to be decided was the legal interpretation of the act; and the law is now decided to be that the ring is not another "place" The Lord Chancellor's arguments in support of this decision seem, to he lay mind, marvels of elever trrelevancy Here are some of his dieta from the wool sack in his own words:

"I think it is clear that what the statute i dealing with here is the case of persons who are in control and in occupation of the place which is assumed to be a betting establishment. The conducting of the business, whether as master or servant, is the thing made unlawful, and the business is that of a betting house or pince to which people can resort for the pur pose of betting, not with each other, but with the betting establishment. It is the employment of the words 'using the same' which, to my mind, has led to the difference of opinion These words, unless explained by the context, are necessarily ambiguous. In one sense, every person who enters the inclosure uses it, but he does not use it in the haracter of owner, keeper, manager or conductor of the business thereof. The betting man in his use of the place differs in this re spect in no way from any other member of the public who enters it, and who neither does nor intends to bet. It is the personality of the betting man, and not his being in any particular place, which affords the opportunity of betting, and a man who walked along a public road shouting the odds in the way here described would be doing exactly the same thing.

"It is nothing to the purpose that there are great many of them who may be found in this inclosure. There is no business being conducted by a keeper, owner, &c., in the inclosure Each betting man is himself conducting his own business of a betting man, and, as I have said, his betting is in no way connected with the place, except that he, as well as other people not betting men, are there. * suppose there is hardly any uncertain event which is of great public interest on which bets are not frequently made. Take a boat race. Every one who has a field, or garden, or house,

or room and lets it for the day of the

are may be perfectly certain that some

of the people who go there, if they go in any onsiderable numbers, will bet, not, indeed, with the owner or occupier, &c., but with some me or more of the people who are there. I fird that reliance is placed upon the fact that the bookmakers who bet are professional bookmakers. My lords, I know of no canon of con struction which can introduce such words into an act of Parliament, and certainly there are no such words here. I cannot doubt that, if the prohibited thing is done, whatever that prohibited thing is, by a person who does it for the first time in his life, he is just as amenable to the law as though he had been for many

Lord James of Hereford was not far behind Lord Halsbury in fertility of fine distinctions. He said in his judgment :

years in the practice of it.

"Speaking in general terms, while the place mentioned in the act must be, to some extent, ejusdem generis with house, room, or office, I to not think that it need possess the same characteristics; for instance, it need not be covered in or roofed. It may be to some extent, an open space. But certain conditions must exist in order to bring such space within the word 'place.' There must be a defined area so marked out that it can be found and recognized as 'the place' where the business is carried on and wherein the bettor can be found. Thus, if a person betted on Salisbury Plain, there would be no place within the act. The whole of Epsom Downs. or any other racecourse where betting takes pince, would not constitute a place; but directly a definite localization of the betting is effected, be it under a tent, or even movable umbrells, it may be well held that a place exists for the purposes of a conviction under the act. If this view be correct, I think that the inclosure existing at Kempton Park might, physically speaking, under certain conditions constitute 'n place' within the meaning of the first and second sections of the act of 1853. It is a defined space limited by metes and bounds, and of such an area that a person herein carrying on the business of betting can be found. I also think, as I have previously stated, that it is established that within this inclosure betting took place that the bets were made by men whose business is that of a bookmaker or betting man, and that such betting took place with the cognizance, and therefore it must be held with the sanction, of the defendants. But the main question involved in this case has still to be solved, viz., Was the inclosure opened, kept o used for the purpose of the owner, occupier, o any person using the same, or of any person conducting the business thereof, betting with persons resorting thereto? In my opinion this question must be answered in the negative."

The Times comes to the relief of the law

ords, whom it excuses by saving: "We may be pretty sure that three out of four members of Parliament who sanctioned the measure in 1853 would have said, if they had been asked. 'We intend nothing heroic we never meant to stop betting in reserved inlosures.' Parliament did not then, and, for hat matter, does not now, desire to put down betting, while it is a minor incident of sport and any decision which said the contrary would outrus public spinion. But the law is left in a curious and unsatisfactory state. It is hard to say whom it touches and whom it spares. It may be right to raid rooms where ten men congregate to bet and exempt places in which ome hundreds do the same. But the act was frawn, it is pretty clear, with no real percepon of some of the difflenities of the problem and with an unmistakable desire to evade The whole subject needs reconsidration in a frank, straightforward spirit.

To make out belying to be only a "minor in dent" of the sport of horse racing is worthy f the law Lords themselves. But the turf to om exhausts the gambling area of England It has spread everywhere and many responsiie legislators are unwilling to interfere so ong as the schemes employed are not deceptive tricks framed to fill the pockets of their promotors. In the old times every commercial enterprise was called an "adventure," and to his day the enormously valuable shares of the N. w River Company, which supplies most of London with its water, are called "adventur-ers shares." To this day the view of possibly the majority in England is that saue, grown nen should be allowed to "adventure" elev on anything under the sun so long as a not a swindle, which, they all recognize etting pure and simple is not. But there has lately spring up a kind of business which seems sailing rather near the wind, and which several of the newspapers are agitating to have stopped. It is on the "snowbail" principle and depends on the person taking a hand disposing a great number of courses to people who is a do the same until an extraordinary total disposed of. The last of this class is the velo snowbail," which is now circularizing ndon. It offers to give a £10 eyele for 6 shillings.

"This," the circular says, " sounds delightful but seems impossible, but becomes, with reasonable judgment, an accomplished warrant from me and without my permission act of 1853. As the fine was the result of a fact!" It invites every one to work this "un-

developed field" for all it is worth. "Make the most of it among your friends and neighbors. You will be doing them a favor as well as benefiting yourself." The benefit will, of course, go to the "snewball" schemers, who will have no trouble, but will simply sit in their offices and sell their bicycles without canvassing or paying commissions-that is, supposing they are enabled to work their snowball" off on the public.

The system is this: You buy what is termed a "co-operative coupon," for its. This coupon is the beginning of the snowball. The next step is that you go to the office of the company and get a certificate containing six similar coupons value 6s, each. You are, therefore, now out of pocket £2 2s. The next step is to work off each from them. They will be utterly valueess to your friends until they, in turn, go to the offices of the company and pay 36s, for their certificates. The company will by this time have received £11 2s., and will give you our bievele, which they allege to be worth £16 But notice how this snowball, once started. moves on. By the time it has taken six turns from the original purchaser, the company will have received £82,880, which is, of course, very good business for them. That, however, is al ways supposing that the cycle snowball goes its round, and that every purchaser is able to work off hiscoupons on his friends. If the cycle breaks down a number of people stand to lose, while the company always gains. This is what is called a "co-operative system!" Everybody involved in the snowball will co-operate with

each other for the benefit of the company. The weekly penny miscellanies, which have an enormous sale in this country, have discov ered a variant to the missing word competiion which gave a great impetus to Praceon Weekly a few years ago, but was stoppediby the Court of Chancery as being a gaming competition. The new scheme escapes this by introducing what it calls an "element of skill, which, in a judgment of the courts last year, legalizes these contests as against mere guessng competitions. The sum of £1,000 is offered to one who comes nearest to forecasting accurately the number of births and the number of deaths which will occur in the United Kingdom in the week ending April 22, 1830. The prize is offered in connection with eight papers which are owned among the five biggest put lishers of that class of journalism. Of course with them it is a mere matter of business advertisement. The whole affair is worked on by an actuary and an insurance company.

It is only now that the truth about the terrible famine which for many weeks has afflicted the best part of European Russia is permitted to reach the outside world. The district affected is bounded on the east by the Volga and on the west by an imaginary line drawn from Moseow to Kiev, which is the extremest southern point. In the north it is probable that the famine stretches as far as Archangel, though it is very difficult to obtain reliable in formation with regard to districts north of Nimi Novgorod. The affected area includes the celebrated black earth zone, which was once famous for its fertility, as well as the great grain districts of the provinces of Sanara. Saratoff and Simbirsk. Russia was last visited by a famine in 1801-92

but since that very severe visitation there has

been only one exceptionally good year, and

ience the peasants have not been able to recover

obliged to slaughter 45 per cent, of their horses

from their losses in 1802, when they wer

and cattle for want of fodder. Their condition is now almost hopeless. Moreover, this year the landed gentry have been affected quite as much as the peasantry, and the series of bad years which they have gone through has so broken their resources that many of them are verging on destitution. In the case of the peasantry it is reported that they have been com pelled to still further reduce the number of their live stock. They are supporting life on all man ner of substitutes for bread, including the bark of trees, the thatches from the roofs of their huts and even sawdust. Every effort is being made by the Government to prevent the ter rible facts connected with the sufferings of the people from leaking out. But that vigorous champion of the Russian peasant, Count Tolstoi, has managed to obtain publicity for a few circumstances which are sufficiently indicative of the state of affairs. He says that sta istical researches have shown that the Russian people consume, on the whole, 30 per cent less food than the normal amount scientifically assumed to be necessary for the main-tenance of health. He also points to facts which are calculated to show that during the last twenty years the men of the black earth region who have attained the age for military service have increasingly failed to satisfy the Besides, the census returns prove that, while the population reached its maximum rate of nerease twenty years ago, that rate of increase has been steadily declining ever since, until it has at last touched zero. That is to say the population is at a standstill, and everybody

stage it presently begins to decline. Count Tolstol then points to the appearance of the average Russian peasant of to-day, his emaciated body and sunken cheeks and con rosts the condition of the rural population with that of the urban, whose physique, except n manufacturing towns, is generally magafficent. Count Tolstoi maintains that the people are so police ridden that they have lost heart and hope, they have no spirit and no energy, a general apathy has come over them, and they have become slothful and gin-sodden. Count Tolstoi's picture is certainly not overdrawn. The state of the country is hopeless and the people know it. One of the worst features of agricultural Russia is the deforest-

knows that when a population attains this

ttion of the country. The whole of central Russia is practically denuded of trees, and this has been brought about in a little less than fifty years. The districts in which Tourgueniev, the novelist, and the personal friend of Tolstol usen to shoot are now absolutely bare. This deforestation has of necessity affected the climate and has reduced the snow and rain falls, which are nothing like what they used o be. Snow is to Russia what the Nile is to Egypt; it is the fertilizer of the land. In the old days of serfdom the peasants were compelled by the landowners to dam up this snow in the spring so that it did not all run to waste n the rivers, but to-day these precautions can to longer be enforced. Leading Russian agri ulturists and engineers maintalu that the only possible way of staving off ruin is by the atroduction of some system of irrigation, as in India. Of course, in olden days the forests re-tained a good deal of the snow even until June. and thus contributed to the humidity of the atmosphere.

But the real cause of the depressed condition I Russian agriculture is the system of land tenure. The land does not belong individually to the peasant, but collectively to the village The village is responsible for the taxes, and, ience, one wealthy peasant may have to pay for the thriftless ones. The consequence i that a system of usury has sprung up, b means of which the poorer peasants are absorbed lately in the power of their wealthier and ofter unserupulous neighbors. The village com mune is also a sort of trades union, which can enforce its terms on the landed gentry, who are often in dire straits for labor, the peasants frequently refusing to work for them. The system upon which the land was allofted to the reasonts was also entirely arong. The pensantry have a firmly mater idea that originally all the land belonged to them, and that the gentry graphed it and enslaved them. Hence, when the sarfs were liberated they thought the landed gentry should return the stolen land. The Govern ment, however, only carved off certain portion of the estates and allotted these portions to the peasantry, who had to pay for them. constallments. The gentry, however, were paid at once and in full by the Governpeasantry, who had to pay for them by annual noney in the approved Russian manner, is casting, gambling, Ac. Their grievance hat the Government, by giving the peasants land, has deprived the gentry of their laborers, while the peasants complain that they have not received sufficient land. This is indeed the case, so that the present state of

ment.

the generation. He was practically unknown. although he had played minor parts in Irving's company until he appeared as actor-manager in the leading role of Freeman Wills's dramatization of Dickens's "Tale of Two Cities." Nothing in London has made so strong an impression and won such instant recognition since Forbes Robertson's great and new Hamlet, more than a year ago. The play itself is a thrilling - almost too thrilling - piece of work, certainly superior to any former adaptation of Dickens's story. But it is undoubtedly young Harvey's carnest, strenuous, veraclous work as Sydney Carlon and his double which has made the fortune of the piece. Were the theatre at his disposal for an indefinite period he could run the piece for months to come, but the master himself is on the eve of his return with Sardou's new play, "Robespierre," which is now finding refuge for re-hearsn's at some of the other London theutres. Another adaptation of a successful novel has seen quite one of the events of the past few weeks. On both continents Mrs. Frances Hodgson Burnett's "A Lady of Quality" formed one of the successes of the book season, and it was a fair enough presumption that the book, strongly dramatic as were some of its passages, might well spare some of its popularity n bahalf of a play founded upon it. Mrs. Burnett therefore availed herself of the services of Mr. Stephen Townesend to aid her in the work of transformation. The result has only proved once more the difficulty of turning a popular novel into a successful play. The beter known and more popular the book the fewer chances has the play. One of two things ilmost invariably happens: Either the adapter takes for granted that every one has read the ook, and so the play is well nigh unintelligible to those who have not read the origial, or else so much of the book disappears at the adapter's hand that those who have read it complain that the play loses sight of the best portions thereof. In the case of "A Lady of Quality" it was rather the latter course which had been followed. A series of de-tached incidents in the life of Chlorinda Wildairs was presented, but the characters who are so living and so interesting in the book have in the play parted with their vitality. The psychological changes in the heroine are starting and unreal on the stage, for the steps o volution marked with so much skill in the love are of necessity left to the imagination of the spectator. However, the play gives an opportunity to Miss Ealinor Calhoun to present a convincing, vigorous and well-consid ered study of a charming woman such as ould be surpassed by no other actress on the English stage.

The other night Mr. D'Oyley Carte invited he critics to attend the first performance of what may be called the second edition of the "Lucky Star." Since its first production the iece has been brightened up in every direcion. New songs have been added, new diaogues inserted and new situations provided or the principal comedians. From an ordinary oint of view, which in this case means the popular point of view, these changes are all for the better. Those ingenuous statisticians, whose pleasant custom it is to count the num laughs in a piece and so to appraise its artistic value will find that the worth of the "Lucky Star" has been considerably added to since the first night But those steeped in the Gilbertian traditions of the Savoy will hold up their hands in horro at the alterations, so contrary are they to Gilbertian principles. There is at least this to be said for them, that they are the very best of their sort, and the piece is now as amusing as under the name of "The Merry Monarch" Mr. Francis Wilson made it in the United States.

Mr. Beerbohm Tree is proceeding with all espatch with the production of Mr. Henry Arthur Jones's new four-act play, "Carna ishib," which on April 12 will take the place of "The Musketeers." The new piece has its seenes laid in India and as regards its setting will be picturesque as well as elaborate. Mr I'ree will close his theatre during Holy Week and the run of "The Musketeers" will be re sumed on Easter Monday and finally end on April 7, the time between that date and April 12 being devoted to the final rehearsals of "Carnas Sahib." So strongly is "The Mus-keteers" running now that there is no absolute necessity for the approach-ing change in the bill. Of the many D'Artagnans we have seen in London this season Mr. Tree more closely approaches that ideal representation of the character which Feehter gave us, alas! how many years ago? He misses, as any English actor would, the graceful and innate picturesqueness of the great Frenchman, which has probably only been approached in our day by the younge Salvini, but he appreciates to the full the humorous side of the character, and he is free from exaggeration and rant.

The performance of "The Adventure of Lady Ursula" at the Duke of York's has been freshened up by the presentation of a very bright little comedictia entitled "Chums," which now precedes the piece of the evening. Not that any addition'in attractiveness was needed. or "Lady Ursula" has been one of the suc-

A pook published this week contains some interesting passages, which show us Napoleon he Great as he appeared to an intelligent lady who kept a diary and enjoyed his acquaintance when he was held prisoner in St. Helena. It is A Diary of St. Helena (1816-17)," by Lady Malcom, who was the wife of Sir Pulteney Mal-

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affairs is that nobody is pleased and nearly everybody ruined. The estate owner can get no labor; the peasant has not enough land to support himself. Thus Russia is face to face with bankruptcy, and anybody who knows the real state of affairs in the country cannot doubt the sincerity of Russia's desire for disarma-It is rather late in the day to call attention to

the splendid triumph of Martin Harvey, who, upon the Lyceum stage nearly a month ago, suddenly took rank among the great actors of

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com. commander of the British cape squadron, which included St. Helena in its station. She kept a note of all the conversations which she and her husband frequently had with the fallen Emperor. Here is the man as she saw

"His hair of a brown black, thin on the forehead, cropped, but not thin on the neck, and rather a dirty look; light blue or gray eyes; a capacious forchead; high nose; short upper lip; good white even teeth, but small the rarely showed them); round chin; the lower part of his face very full; pale complexion; particularly short neck. Otherwise his figure appeared well proportioned, but had become too fat; a thick short hand with taper fingers and beautiful nails, and a well-shaped log and

Lady Malcom was struck with the kindness of his expression, so contrary to the flerceness she had expected. She saw no trace of great ability; his countenance seemed rather to in dicate goodness; at a second interview she remarked that it would change with his humor The Admiral allowed that his manners were pleasing, but would not allow that they were in the least graceful. Lady Maleom and her husband were both

Scotch, and much of Napoleon's conversation bore on their country. He said he had heard that Scotchmen drank very much, and turning to Lady Malcom said. "Is it true that they never get up from the table till supper is ready?" He then asked many questions about Scotland; he said it was a poorer country than England. The Admiral allowed it was but added that it had been much enriched by the numbers of Scotchmen who had made for tunes in the colonies and returned to settle in their native place. "Yes," said Bonaparte mountaineers always love their country.

Of English literature, too, the prisoner of Longwood had his views, and "appeared well acquainted with the wit and talents of Sheri dan." whose "Rivals" had been "acted in the valley a few days before." He remarked or the difficulty of a person not conversant with a language reading poetry; he could read English newspapers to be amused by them, but he should never speak the language, for he could not pronounce it, nor could be read poetry. Bonaparte twice asked the Admiral if he was

certain that Milton was not a regicide; he the nquired if English, like the French language. had been much changed since the days o Shakespeare, and whether his plays had not been modernized-if Dryden and Addison had not made a change in the language. H. R. C. DIFFERENT IN THE SOUTH.

Gentleman from Georgia, Sah, Objects to

A young mun who said that be might just as well be John Smith of Georgia as anyhody else, was arraigned in the Jefferson Market Police Court yesterday charged with being intoxicated and unable to take care of himself. His appearance had been somewhat specied by rough handling and repeated contact with the mud of the streets. ore you drunk?" Magistrate Kudlich

"Were you drunk?" Magistrate Kudlich asked him.

Ah guess Ah must have been a little gay," he answered with a complinent smile.

Do you think this a haughing matter, man?' the Court demanded sternly.

"Ah do not, sah," was the reply. "Ah consider it a most sewious mattah, sah. But, you' Honah, Ah'm from the South, and down in the South we do not smiles a gentleman fo' enjoying himself a little."

"I shall have to find you \$3." the Court said.
"That's what we do here in the North, gentleman or no gentleman."

Buffalo Bill's Parade To-Morrow.

Buffulo Bill will lead his rough riders brough the city to-morrow morning oreliminary to the opening performance, which takes pince Wednesday evening. Quite a number of new features are promised for this year, including riders from Hawaii and the Pullippines childing riders from Hawaii and the Philippines and former members of Rossevelt's command. They will be seen in the cavalende. Co. Cody, with his retinue, will heave the Garden at his ocioes. Tuesday morning and bass over the following route: Madison avenue to Twenty-fourth street, to Lexington avenue, to Fifty-eighth street, to Fifth avenue, to Forty-much street, to Sixth avenue, to Forty-fourth street, to Fifth avenue, to Fourth avenue, to the Garden.

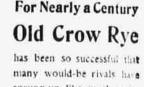
Mrs. Hinch Seriously Burned. Mrs. Elizabeth Hinch, 22 years old, of 375

Pearl street. Brooklyn, was seriously burned yesterday afternoon. She was dusting the range in her apartments, when her wrapper, coming in contact with the live coals, caught fire. She ran upstairs to the apartments of Mrs. I. Thomas and jumped into a feather bed and tried to smother the flames. John lieser by, who lives in the house, was summoned, and by means of blankets extinguished the flames. Ambulance Surgeon Eathbone removed Mrs. Hinch to the Brooklyn Hospital. He said he believed her injuries would prove mortal.

Sold Her Into Stavery, Girl Says.

Harry Goldstein, 21 years old, of 104 Allen street, was held for trial yesterday in the Essex Market Police Court on the charge of abducting Bessie Backleman, 15 years old, from her home at 218 Delinicey street. The girl, who appeared as a witness against codistem, declared that he made a basiness of procuring roung girls for disorderly resorts, and had sold her in turn to several houses in this city and Newark, N. J. She was committed to the care of the tierry society as a witness.

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Newark Asphalt Paving Company in Trouble Application has been made to the Chancel t f New Jersey for the appointment of a ever for the Newark Aspiralt Paying and Struction Company, and VinesChancelle. ery has granted an order to the court show cause why this should not be donthe papers filed last week it was stated to dintany was insolvent and wall not be offil its existing contracts with the sawwars. It is said that the condition of Newars. It is said that the condition of the company is largely due to a failure upon it hart of the Columbia Construction Commany 2 (24) out its contracts with the Newaik objects of the Newark contracts with the Newaik objects in the Newark contracts being J. In Hingworth, a steel not is factors long J. In Hingworth, a steel not is factorer; William Paul, Jr., James J. C., Sander, Christopher G. Poland, too ge McDonal, and James F. Comelly, William Paul, Jr. the President of the components (Tarence Hoseworth, Vice-President, and Mr. Connelly, Graner Collector of Internal Revenue in Newark, are the applicants for the appointment of A receivor.

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